

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Amended) A method for intermittently downloading television program data to ~~a plurality of~~ at least one user terminal[[s]] equipped with a data receiver, a memory for storing television program data, an ~~on-screen~~ electronic program guide generator, a microprocessor, and a ~~television~~ display monitor for displaying a television program[[s]] and an electronic program guide, the method comprising the steps of:

normally powering the data receiver[[s]] off;

~~intermittently transmitting television program data to the user terminals;~~

powering the data receiver[[s]] on to ~~intercept the transmitted program data~~ receive an instruction packet, wherein the instruction packet comprises information indicative of a later time for receiving the television program data;

storing the information from the instruction packet in the memory;

controlling the data receiver to receive

the television program data at the later time;

storing the ~~transmitted~~ television program data in the memory;

~~programming the microprocessor to transfer~~
transferring the television program data from the memory to the electronic program guide generator in response to a user command[[s]];

~~programming the microprocessor to control~~
controlling the electronic program guide generator to generate a video drive signal representative of an ~~on-~~
~~screen-television~~ electronic program guide; and

coupling the electronic program guide generator to the display monitor to display the ~~on-screen~~ electronic program guide.

2. (Canceled)

3. (New) The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

powering the data receiver off after receiving the instruction packet;

powering the data receiver on before receiving the television program data at the later time; and

powering the data receiver off after receiving the television program data at the later time.

4. (New) The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

controlling the data receiver to further receive a filter packet associated with at least one of the instruction packet and the television program data, the filter packet comprising filter information specifying at least one characteristic of at least one user terminal; and

performing the storing of at least one of the information associated with the instruction packet and the television program data in the memory when the filter information matches the user terminal.

5. (New) The method defined in claim 4 wherein the at least one characteristic comprises at least one of a software version of the user terminal, a zip code of the user terminal, and an area of interest by a viewer using the user terminal.

6. (New) The method defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the instruction packet and the television program data is received in at least one of a digital data stream, a data link separate from a television signal input source on which television signals are provided to the user terminal, a vertical blanking interval, and a television signal associated with a

particular television channel with which the instruction packet or the television program data directly corresponds.

7. (New) The method defined in claim 1 wherein only a portion of the television program data that is not already stored in the user terminal is stored in the memory.

8. (New) The method defined in claim 1 further comprising powering the data receiver on to receive a second instruction packet, wherein the second instruction packet comprises second time information that instructs the user terminal to receive the instruction packet with the information at a later second time.

9. (New) The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

preventing the data receiver from receiving at least one of the instruction packet and the television program data when the data receiver is already powered on and tuned to a channel other than the channel that is associated with the television program data;

incrementing a counter value in response to the preventing the data receiver from receiving the at least one of the instruction packet and the television program data; and

causing a warning message to be displayed on the display monitor when the counter value reaches a predetermined number.

10. (New) The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

controlling the data receiver to receive a time packet that comprises a global clock time; and

synchronizing a clock at the user terminal to the global clock time.

11. (New) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the television program data comprises at least one of channel, time, day, length, and content information of at least one television program.

12. (New) The method defined in claim 1 further comprising powering the data receiver on to receive the instruction packet at a predetermined time.

13. (New) The method defined in claim 1 further comprising intermittently powering the data receiver on for a first duration of time that is longer than a second duration of time corresponding to the length of time in which the instruction packet is transmitted in order to receive the instruction packet, wherein the length of time between intermittently powering the data receiver on

is set at a starting value, successively decreased until the instruction packet is received, and subsequently reset to the starting value.

14. (New) A system for intermittently downloading television program data to at least one user terminal comprising:

- a data receiver that is normally powered off;

- a memory;

- an electronic program guide generator;

- a display monitor; and

- a microprocessor coupled to the data receiver, the memory, the electronic program guide generator and the display monitor, wherein the microprocessor is operative to:

- power the data receiver on to receive an instruction packet, wherein the instruction packet comprises information indicative of a later time for receiving television program data;

- store the information from the instruction packet in the memory;

- control the data receiver to receive the television program data at the later time;

- store the television program data in the memory;

transfer the television program data from the memory to the electronic program guide generator in response to a user command; and

control the electronic program guide generator to generate an electronic program guide based on the television program data for display on the display monitor.

15. (New) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the microprocessor is further operative to:

power the data receiver off after receiving the instruction packet;

power the data receiver on before receiving the television program data at the later time; and

power the data receiver off after receiving the television program data at the later time.

16. (New) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the microprocessor is further operative to:

control the data receiver to further receive a filter packet associated with at least one of the instruction packet and the television program data, the filter packet comprising filter information specifying at least one characteristic of at least one user terminal; and

perform the storing of at least one of the information associated with the instruction packet and the television program data when the filter information matches the user terminal.

17. (New) The system defined in claim 16 wherein the at least one characteristic comprises at least one of a software version of the user terminal, a zip code of the user terminal, and an area of interest by a viewer using the user terminal.

18. (New) The system defined in claim 14 wherein at least one of the instruction packet and the television program data is received in at least one of a digital data stream, a data link separate from a television signal input source on which television signals are provided to the user terminal, a vertical blanking interval, and a television signal associated with a particular television channel with which the instruction packet or the television program data directly corresponds.

19. (New) The system defined in claim 14 wherein only a portion of the television program data that is not already stored in the user terminal is stored in the memory.

20. (New) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the microprocessor is further operative to power the data receiver on to receive a second instruction packet, wherein the second instruction packet comprises second time information that instructs the user terminal to receive the instruction packet with the information at a later second time.

21. (New) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the microprocessor is further operative to:

- prevent the data receiver from receiving at least one of the instruction packet and the television program data when the data receiver is already powered on and tuned to a channel other than the channel that is associated with the television program data;

- increment a counter value in response to preventing the data receiver from receiving the at least one of the instruction packet and the television program data; and

- cause a warning message to be displayed on the display monitor when the counter value reaches a predetermined number.

22. (New) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the microprocessor is further operative to:

- control the data receiver to receive a

time packet that comprises a global clock time; and
synchronize a clock at the user terminal
to the global clock time.

23. (New) The system defined in claim 14
wherein the television program data comprises at least
one of channel, time, day, length, and content
information of at least one television program.

24. (New) The system defined in claim 14
wherein the microprocessor is further operative to power
the data receiver on to receive the instruction packet at
a predetermined time.

25. (New) The system defined in claim 14
wherein the microprocessor is further operative to
intermittently power the data receiver on for a first
duration of time that is longer than a second duration of
time corresponding to the length of time in which the
instruction packet is transmitted in order to receive the
instruction packet, wherein the length of time between
intermittently powering the data receiver on is set at a
starting value, successively decreased until the
instruction packet is received, and subsequently reset to
the starting value.